



# Human Trafficking

## An Iowa Perspective

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Iowa Department of Public Safety





## Iowa Code § 80.45 Office to combat human trafficking

1. An **office to combat human trafficking** shall be established to oversee and coordinate efforts to combat human trafficking.
2. The commissioner shall appoint the office to combat human trafficking, subject to the availability of funding.
3. The office shall do all of the following:
  - a. Serve as a **point of contact** for the public and other government agencies.
  - b. **Consult with and work with** other government agencies, nongovernmental organizations that have expertise in human trafficking, law enforcement, and prosecution.
  - c. Develop a **strategy to combat human trafficking**.
  - d. Develop a **strategy for sharing victim and offender data**.
  - e. Apply for or assist other government agencies in applying for grants to support human trafficking enforcement, prosecution, and victim protection.
  - f. Research and recommend strategies to protect human trafficking victims.
  - g. **Take other steps necessary** to combat human trafficking.
  - h. By November 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, submit a report to the general assembly regarding the office's activities related to combat human trafficking.

### Statutory Duties

- Point of contact for HT
- Consult with other government agencies
- Develop strategy for HT criminal history
- Develop strategy for sharing victim and offender data
- Research/recommend trainings
- Take other necessary steps
- Submit an annual report, beginning Nov. 1, 2017

ent. The purpose of the office is to

staff may be hired, subject to

**nongovernmental or community** victim protection and assistance, in this state.

dents related to human trafficking. mental agencies.

apply for **grants** to support human

ratify and respond appropriately to

the general assembly regarding the man trafficking within this state.

# What does human trafficking look like?



**Trafficking  $\neq$  Smuggling**

**Trafficking  $>$  Smuggling**



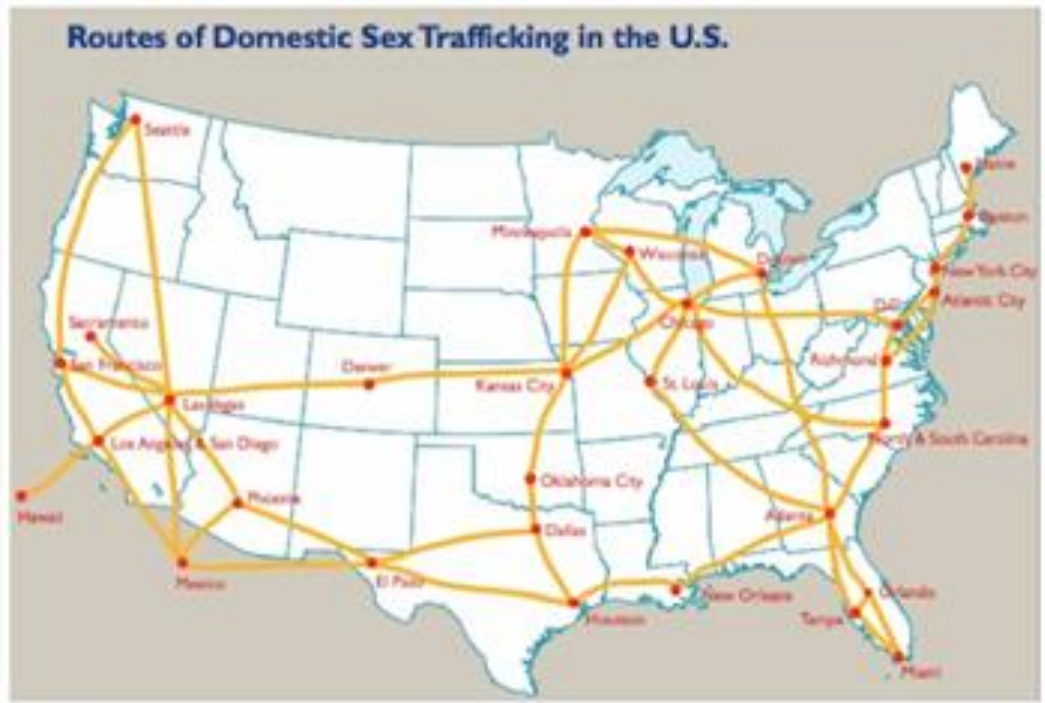
**Can it  
happen  
in Iowa?**

**YES**

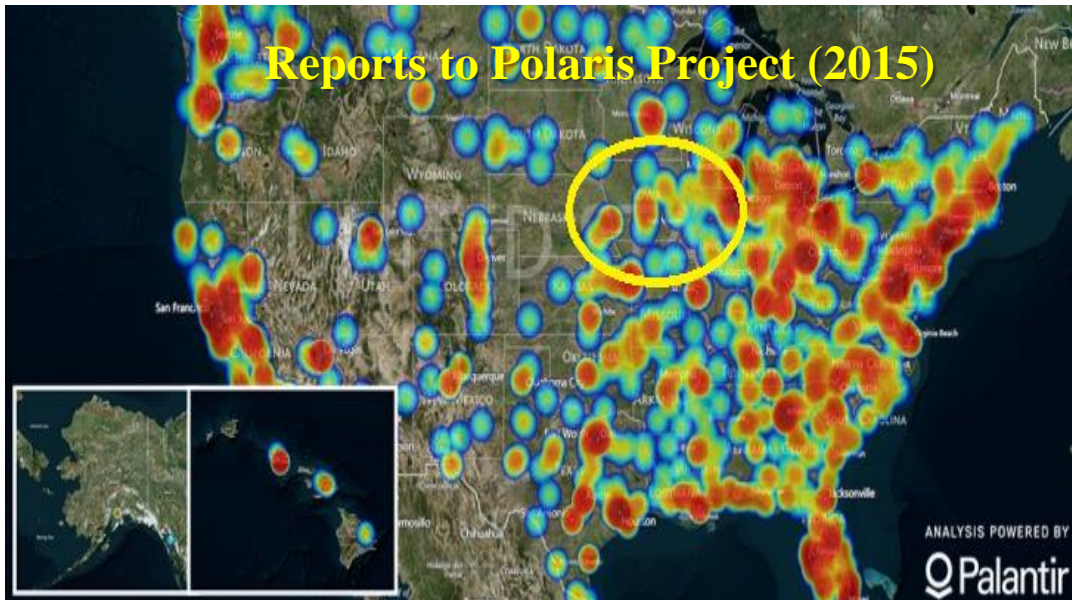




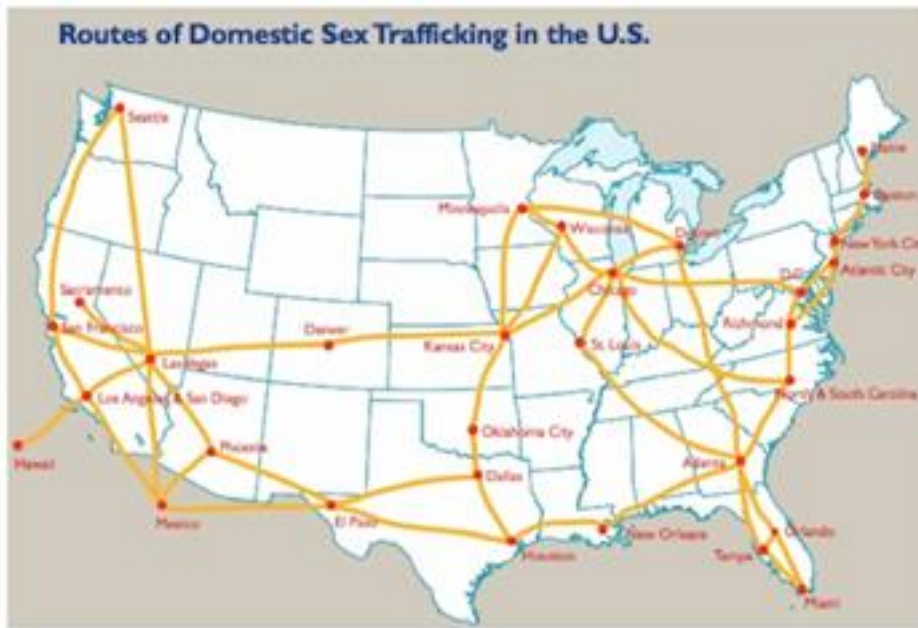
# Is human trafficking happening in Iowa?



Reports to Polaris Project (2015)



Iowa is not a hub, but there are several hubs nearby, and Polaris reports show that trafficking occurs in Iowa.



Human trafficking routes generally track the routes commonly used for drug trafficking



Human traffickers often supply drugs to their victims in order to control their actions. Traffickers benefit from having victims become dependent upon drugs.



# This is what human trafficking looks like – in Iowa



Office of the Attorney General of Iowa

# Iowa Cases: Sex Trafficking

2015  
Little Rock/  
Sioux Falls  
Lance Hunter

2010  
Sioux Falls /  
Spencer  
Dr. Josh Payer

2007  
Denison  
Leonard Russell &  
Marcia Ryan

2009  
Decorah  
Ellis Smith

2011  
Sioux City  
Daron Jungers

2010  
Council Bluffs & Omaha  
Horton / Heredia

2009  
Fredricksburg  
Brandin  
Hagen

2012  
Council Bluffs  
Parrish Casebier, Cheryl  
Tucker, Kentrell Vertner

2012  
Humboldt  
Michael Malcom  
Ashley Prince  
Nikki Fawcett

2014  
Coralville  
Melody  
McCullom

2013  
Cedar Rapids  
Robert Jackson

2012  
Council Bluffs  
Johnelle Bell  
Brittany Lawson

2012  
Des Moines  
Atlantis Carter  
Erika Hart

2005  
Robert Sallis &  
Demont Bowie

2014  
Council Bluffs  
Adrien Cole

2016  
Red Oak  
Michael Bressler,  
Lester Crayton

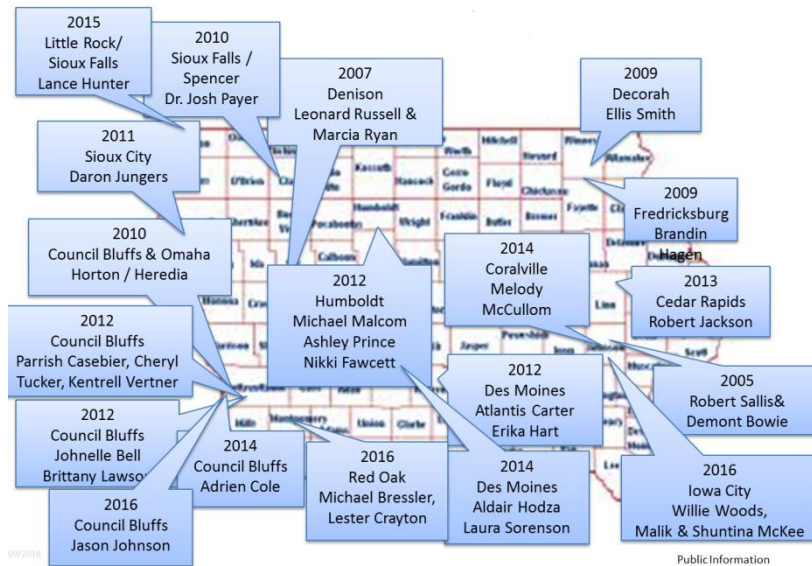
2014  
Des Moines  
Aldair Hodza  
Laura Sorenson

2016  
Iowa City  
Willie Woods,  
Malik & Shuntina McKee

2016  
Council Bluffs  
Jason Johnson



# Sex Trafficking Cases in Iowa



## Commonalities

- At-risk/runaway teens
- Sex trafficking
- Enticement, then physical coercion
- Trafficking victims were drugged
- Division of labor among traffickers
- "Circuits" for commercial sex trafficking
- National reach for circuits
- Online advertising

Teen trafficked from Minneapolis

Teens trafficked via strip clubs

Truck driver took teen across states

Teen trafficked in NE Iowa

Iowa doctor provided drugs to sex ring in South Dakota

Omaha sex ring included trafficking to Iowa

Trafficked teens in Council Bluffs

Couple trafficked teens in Des Moines

Trafficking teen girls for prostitution

Prostitution & photos of teens

Multi-state trafficking ring



# Labor Cases in Iowa

## Iowa Cases: Labor Violations

Consent Decree for sexual harassment in egg plant in Wright County

Immigration and labor violation in meat packing plant in Postville

Labor violations for intellectually challenged adult men working in packing plant in Atalissa

Traffic stop led to discovery of a van filled with immigrants of all ages trafficked nationwide

## Common Labor Cases in the U.S.

- Packing plants & manufacturing
- Nail salons
- Massage parlors
- Restaurants
- Door to door sales
- Domestic servants
- Farm workers

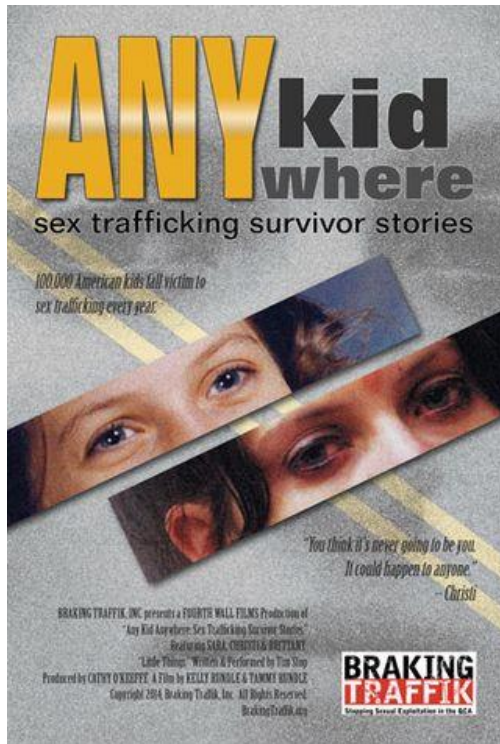
Immigrants from Guatemala, Palau & Sudan, who were promised payment of transportation, housing, etc. in a packing plant. Violations involving labor, employment safety and child labor laws were found.

Immigrant workers from Central America alleged sexual harassment, sexual assault in a packing plant. Consent decree required training for all employees at one plant. Another plant was shut down.

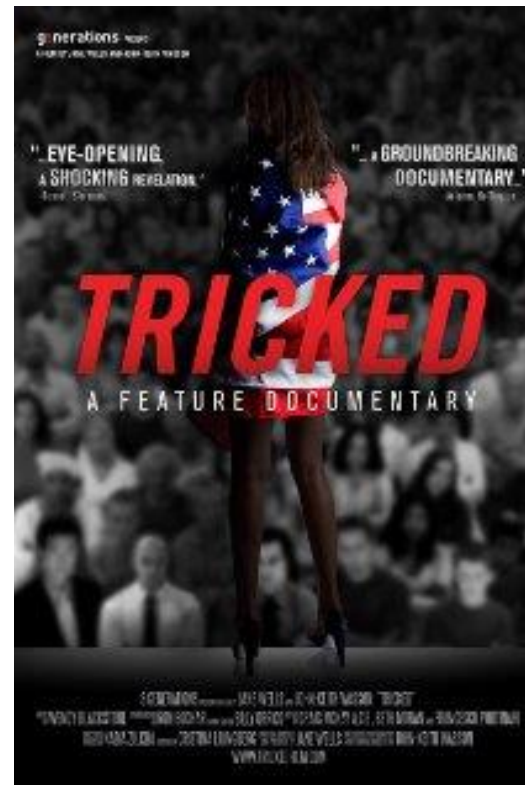
Intellectually disabled workers were exploited by a company that arranged for them to work in a packing plant and live in an abandoned school.

Traffic stop led to discovery of a van loaded with immigrant adults & children trafficked nationwide.

# Learn More



Braking Traffik  
(Quad Cities)



On Netflix

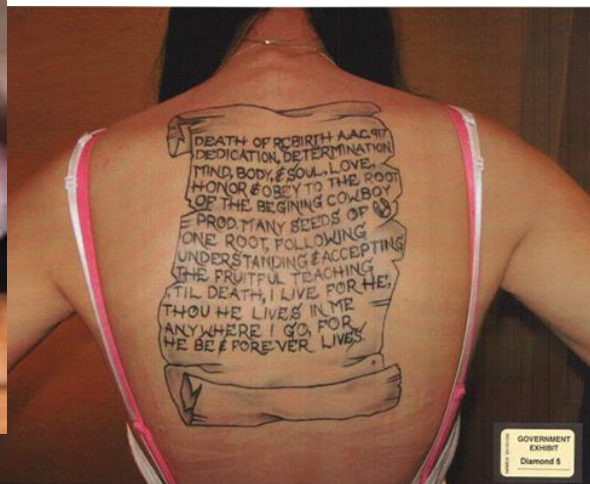
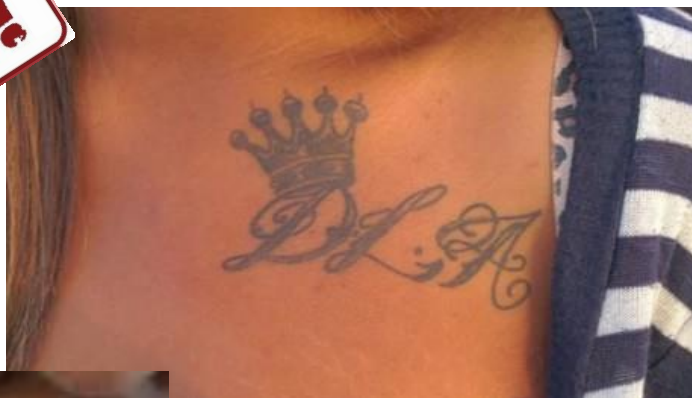


PBS –  
Independent  
Lens

# Warning Signs



**BRANDED!**





# Warning Signs

## Glossary of “The Life”

**Daddy:** The term a pimp will often require his victim to call him.

**Family/Folks:** The term used to describe the other individuals under the control of the same pimp. He plays the role of father (or “Daddy”) while the group fulfills the need for a “family.”

**Wifeys/Wife-in-Law/Sister Wife:** What women and girls under the control of the same pimp call each other.

**Date:** The exchange when prostitution takes place, or the activity of prostitution. A victim is said to be “with a date” or “dating.”

**Bottom:** A female appointed by the trafficker/pimp to supervise the others and report rule violations. Operating as his “right hand,” the Bottom may help instruct victims, collect money, book hotel rooms, post ads, or inflict punishments on other girls.

**Circuit:** A series of cities among which prostituted people are moved. One example would be the West Coast circuit of San Diego, Las Vegas, Portland, and the cities between. The term can also refer to a chain of states such as the “Minnesota pipeline” by which victims are moved through a series of locations from Minnesota to markets in New York.



# Warning Signs

## Behavior or Physical State

- Fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, nervous, paranoid
- Defers to another person to speak for him/her; not allowed to speak English
- Shows signs of physical or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement, torture
- Harmed or deprived of food, water, sleep, medical care, other life necessities
- Few or no personal possessions
- Avoids eye contact
- Lacks health care, appears malnourished
- Loss of sense of time or place

## Social Behavior

- Free to contact friends or family?
- Allowed to socialize or attend religious services?
- Freedom of movement?
- Threatened with harm if attempts to leave / escape?
- Inconsistencies in story?

## Sex Trafficking

- In touch with family?
- Drugged? Beaten? Tattoo or “brand”?
- Refers to pimp as “boyfriend”
- “Go bag” has essentials for commercial sex
- Under age



# Warning Signs

## **Work Conditions & Immigration Status**

- Work excessively long and/or unusual hours? Not allowed breaks?
- Unpaid, paid very little, or paid only via tips?
- Recruited for one purpose and then forced to engage in some other job?
- Owes a large debt and unable to pay it off?
- High security measures in the work place or living location? (e.g., opaque windows, boarded-up windows, bars on windows, barbed wire, security cameras, etc.)
- Salary garnished to pay off a smuggling fee?
- Forced to perform sex acts?
- Threatened with deportation or law enforcement action?
- In possession of identification & travel documents? If not, who has control of them?





# Who is at greatest risk?

Marginalized & impoverished groups & individuals

Runaway & homeless youth

Victims of trauma & abuse

Refugees & individuals  
fleeing conflict

Undocumented  
immigrants



# Where might you encounter trafficking?

**Commercial sex operations:**  
brothels, strip clubs, truck stops, hotels, apartments

**Restaurants, bars, hotels**  
(service industry)

**Factories**

**Domestic laborers**

**Door to door sales**

**Foreign spouses**  
(via forced marriage)

**Migrant laborers**



# What should you do if you suspect trafficking?

Contact the National Hotline

Contact local law enforcement

Contact local victim service providers

Contact state or federal investigators or prosecutors

**DO NOT confront the suspected trafficker or victim**





THE NATIONAL HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING HOTLINE  
**888-373-7888**

**888 3737 888**



**POLARIS PROJECT**

FOR A WORLD WITHOUT SLAVERY